

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY AUGUST 19, 2016**



The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Frasier

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Girard, McDevitt, Braymer, MacDonald, Frasier, Simpson, Vanselow, Dickinson, Strough, Seeber, Beaty, Montesi, Sokol, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty; Supervisors Brock and Merlino absent-2

Motion was made by Supervisor Wood, seconded by Supervisor Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2016 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2016 entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 5 of 2014 in Relation to the Imposition of an Additional Mortgage Recording Tax in Warren County to Amend SECTION 3 to provide that the Local Law shall remain in effect until December 1, 2018" open at 10:02 a.m. and he asked Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, to read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Chairman Geraghty called for any public comment, and there being no one wishing to speak on the matter, he advised the Public Hearing would remain open while they proceeded with the Agenda review to allow anyone wishing to comment on proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2016 an opportunity to do so.

Chairman Geraghty began by recognizing Nancy Getz for her 25 years of service to the County through the Public Health Division which he said was greatly appreciated.

Next, Chairman Geraghty read aloud the listing of meetings he had attended since the July 15th Board Meeting; *a copy of the Chairman's Report is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting*. He asked that anyone with concerns bring them to his attention to allow him to address them in a timely manner. He informed that interviews would be forthcoming for the vacancy within the Office for the Aging. He commended the Department Heads and their staff for their efforts in ensuring the County continued to run smoothly; he noted as the acting County Administrator he had made a number of changes which he felt were beneficial to the County.

Chairman Geraghty then called for reports from Supervisors on the past months meetings or activities.

Supervisor Frasier advised that she had attended the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting on Thursday, July 28th in St. Lawrence County which she found it be very informative.

Supervisor Simpson reported on the July 25th meeting of the Public Works Committee, providing an overview of proposed Resolution Nos. 332-338.

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Supervisor Vanselow reported on the July 20th meeting of the Support Services Committee, providing a summary of proposed Resolution Nos. 321-322. He informed that Joan Sady had been appointed to a full-time position within the County Attorney's Office.

Supervisor Dickinson advised the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee had met on July 29th and he provided a summary of the discussion that took place there concerning three properties that were foreclosed upon by the County that contained environmental issues and the process required to clean them up so they could be sold. Supervisor Dickinson reported that the timeframe to make last chance tax payments fell short this year, allowing individuals until September 9th to make tax payments before their property would be seized by the County and placed in the County auction on October 15th. He requested that the Supervisors notify anyone with questions and/or concerns regarding this to contact him directly. Supervisor Dickinson informed that his lack of attendance related to the fact that his wife had her pancreas removed at St. Peters Hospital in Albany, New York and he thanked everyone who had expressed concerns. He noted she had recently received a clean bill of health from her doctors.

Supervisor Strough stated that prior to the meeting he had distributed a copy of a draft resolution entitled *Resolution in Support of Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Runway 1/19 Extension Project*, to the Board for their review; *a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting*. He stated the proposed resolution had been written through a peer review wherein a number of points he had included were either further summarized or taken out. He pointed out no action was required today on the matter, as his purpose for presenting it today was for review only.

Supervisor Dickinson inquired who the peers Supervisor Strough had reviewed the resolution with were and Supervisor Strough responded that they consisted of professionals in the economic, aviation and political fields.

Supervisor Seeber requested that a copy of the proposed resolution be emailed to all members of the Board and Supervisor Strough replied he would do so following the conclusion of the meeting.

Supervisor Seeber apprised that SUNY (*State University of New York*) Adirondack was holding an event entitled "Rock the Vote" on Monday, September 19th at the Residence Hall from 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Supervisor Seeber informed that on three separate occasions she had been invited to meet with the members of the Warren County Lodging Association to discuss occupancy tax. She acknowledged Chairman Geraghty, Supervisor Merlino, Brian Reichenbach, *County Attorney*, and the Tourism Department for the significant time they had taken over the last month to meet with local lodging property owners to discuss their concerns about the distribution of occupancy tax funds and the direction the County was moving in.

Supervisor Beaty encouraged the Town Supervisors to respond as soon as possible to Julie Butler's, *Purchasing Agent*, request to meet with either the Town Supervisor or representatives of their Highway Department to discuss getting the County and Town's insync to bid on certain commodities which would result in significant savings. He pointed out thus far the savings achieved was slightly more than \$90,000 for a total of nine items purchased for the Department of Public Works. He reiterated his sentiment from last month that he was sympathetic to the limited resources available at the municipality level and the amount of work required of them, but noted that once everything was in place they would only be dealing with maintenance issues which would require much less exertion on their part. He pointed out the savings realized would far outweigh the amount of work required and he implored them to either attend the meeting with Ms. Butler themselves or send a representative of their Highway Department. Supervisor Beaty remarked that he appreciated the information regarding

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the benefits of the runway extension at the Airport provided by Supervisor Strough. He informed that Channel 8 had volunteered to host a debate between Supervisor Strough and Mark Westcott, *Town of Queensbury resident*, regarding the matter which he looked forward to watching should Mr. Strough agree to participate. He added he hoped the local papers would host a similar event, as he felt it was imperative that the residents be presented with as many opportunities as possible to digest the information on significant projects such as this.

Supervisor Merlino entered the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Supervisor Montesi apprised he had served on the Sub-Committee that was charged with selecting an engineering firm to provide consultant services related to the Post Implementation Review of the Energy Performance Contract. He advised the working group had narrowed the selection from fourteen applicants to three which were subsequently interviewed. He stated that proposed Resolution No. 363, *Authorizing an Agreement with Bergmann Associates for Consultant Services for the Post Implementation Review of the Energy Performance Contract at the Warren County Municipal Center*, authorized the contract with the company the working group had recommended; however, he noted, the contract amount was slightly more than what had been budgeted for this purpose.

Supervisor Sokol reported on the July 20th meeting of the Health, Human & Social Services Committee, providing an overview of proposed Resolution Nos. 329-330. Supervisor Sokol advised the Annual Summer Youth Awards Ceremony/Picnic had taken place yesterday and he thanked Supervisors McDevitt and Wood and Dr. James A. Seeley, *Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension*, for attending. He commented that he was disheartened that the media spent the bulk of their time highlighting issues at the County and not all of the positive aspects such as the programs like the Summer Youth Program, Home Care, etc.

Supervisor Dickinson commended the Home Care Division of Public Health for the care they provided to his wife during her illness. He remarked not only were the employees studious but they had also been very caring and compassionate.

Supervisor Thomas remarked he would like to echo the comments of Supervisor Sokol regarding the fact that the media often overlooked positive things going on at the County which should be highlighted. Supervisor Thomas informed the Budget Team would commence meeting with Department Heads next week following which they would present their Budgets to the Committees charged with overseeing them prior to anything being finalized.

Supervisor Wood provided a brief overview of the July 20th meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee, wherein proposed Resolution Nos. 323-325 were approved.

Supervisor Conover apprised that the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee had held two meetings this month, the first of which was on July 29th, where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 319-320, 343-356 and 358. He informed that the request from Countryside Adult Home concerning per diem employees was tabled, as well as a request from the Public Works Committee regarding enrollment in job-related courses for an employee of the DPW. He noted both requests would be discussed again at the next Committee meeting. Supervisor Conover provided a brief overview of the August 15th Committee meeting wherein two requests for transfers of funds were approved, both of which were from the Contingent Account. He added upon the request of the Budget Officer, at the July 29th meeting, the Committee authorized the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$292,000 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to Budget Code A.9901.0181 910, *Transfers, Debt Service*, to cover the cost of the SUNY Adirondack NSTEM Project that would be due in 2017.

Supervisor Leggett advised that he had attended the meeting of the Common Ground Alliance in Old Forge, New York this month which he felt was quite productive.

Supervisor Girard apprised that the County Facilities Committee had met on three occasions, the first of which was on July 20th wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 339-341 and on August 3rd to review the credit history of particular companies with regard to the RFP (*Request for Proposal*) released to commission a study on the Siemens Contract for the Municipal Center Building. Supervisor Girard informed the purpose of the August 15th meeting was to review the bids received for the Court Space Expansion Projects as depicted by proposed Resolution Nos. 359-362. He remarked he was pleased to report the ground breaking for the project would be occurring before winter of this year. In conclusion, Supervisor Girard commended Don Lehman on an article he had written that was featured in today's edition of *The Post Star*, concerning the captain of the Ethan Allen boat that had capsized in Lake George in 2005, killing 20 passengers, and his recent death and how the tragedy impacted his life.

Supervisor McDevitt thanked Mr. Lehman for reporting on the luncheon that took place yesterday wherein it was announced that the City of Glens Falls had been awarded \$10 million in grant funding from the State for improvements to South Street as part of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. Supervisor McDevitt informed that he had the privilege of attending an Eagle Scout Ceremony on August 13th in the Town of Warrensburg along with Chairman Geraghty, Supervisor Strough, Senator Little and Kate Hogan, *District Attorney*. He stated that he as a former marine himself was aware of a program offered by the Marine Corps. which presented new Eagle Scouts with an award. He added Apex Solar Company would be donating \$100 to each troop the Eagle Scouts were members of. He pointed out only 4% of Boys Scouts were able to achieve the honor of becoming Eagle Scouts which was why he was impressed by the fact that about three individuals achieved this ranking from Warren County a few years ago. He stated his purpose for bringing this up was to ensure that the Supervisors were aware that the Marine Corps. had a program in place to recognize the individuals who were able to obtain the ranking of Eagle Scout, as he felt this added to the prestigiousness of the achievement.

Supervisor Braymer reported that she had attended the meeting at the Crandall Public Library concerning the potential change in the 518 area code, which she felt was very informative. She stated public comments were being accepted through the end of the day on the matter. Supervisor Braymer informed she had attended the grand opening of the Co-Op in the downtown area of the City of Glens Falls. In conclusion, Supervisor Braymer stated she had been communicating with Supervisor Strough regarding some items she would like to see included on the next agenda for the Legislative & Rules Committee, the first of which concerned Agricultural Districts within the County and the other concerning correspondence that was received from the public regarding the voting procedure in place at the County. She added another item that may be addressed there was a resolution similar to the one adopted by the Village of Lake George concerning "Log Bay Day" on Lake George.

Chairman Geraghty apprised he had been communicating with Washington County regarding a resolution concerning Log Bay Day. He said he was awaiting to see what type of resolution Washington County put together concerning the subject matter and he asked Supervisor Strough to contact them.

Supervisor MacDonald informed since this was his first year on the Board he was taking the time to meet with Department Heads to try and better understand some of the workings of the County. He said he had met with members of the Tourism Department to get a more depth understanding of what the department did on a granule level, where there resources go, how occupancy tax funds were utilized and how they worked to highlight each individual municipality and the attractions there. He apprised that he had met with the Superintendent of Public Works, as well to do a similar overview of the

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Department so he had a better understanding of the many moving parts that made up such an expansive department. He indicated the discussion also included some of the important capital projects that were going on such as those at the Airport. He mentioned he served, as well on the working group that narrowed down the respondents to provide consultant services related to the Post Implementation Review of the Energy Performance Contract and he noted he was pleased with the firm that was selected to carry out the work. He informed that Mrs. Butler had invited representatives from each municipality to attend a consolidated purchasing round table discussion on August 22nd and 26th, both of which would be held in the Conference Room on the third floor of the Human Services Building. Supervisor MacDonald expressed gratitude on behalf of the 5th Ward of the City of Glens Falls to the Regional Economic Development Council for awarding the City a \$10 million grant to revitalize South Street, as this was of significant meaning to not only the City but also the entire County.

Supervisor Merlino stated that the Tourism & Occupancy Tax Committee had met on July 20th wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 326-328. Supervisor Merlino stated the Park Operations & Management Committee had met on July 25th and he provided a brief summary of proposed Resolution No. 331. Supervisor Merlino provided a summary of the August 10th meeting of the Tourism & Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee where Deborah Garry, *of BBG&G Advertising*, provided an update on the activities her firm was engaged in on behalf of Warren County.

Chairman Geraghty once again called for any comments on the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2016; there being none, he declared the Public Hearing closed at 10:34 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian Reichenbach, *County Attorney*, to provide the report by the County Attorney. Mr. Reichenbach informed Supreme Court Justice Mueller had recently conveyed to him the excitement of the court employees in regards to the Court Space Expansion Project. Mr. Reichenbach stated that he had attended the Clydesdale event at the Festival Space yesterday. He said a number of individuals expressed their pleasure with the facility which he believed was the original vision of the Board for the property.

Resuming the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for the reading of communications, which Mrs. Allen read aloud, as follows:

Reports from:

1. Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for June 2016 from the Warren County Probation Department.
2. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Financial Report dated May 31, 2016.
3. Pro Act Warren County Discount Card Utilization Report for January 2015 - June 2016.

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. June 2016 Surcharge check in the amount of \$5,208.00.

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. 2016 2nd Quarter Benefit Distribution check in the amount of \$10,250.00

Letter from Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, appointing Maja Tlokinska-Scroggins as a Deputy Superintendent of Public Works effective retroactive to July 15, 2016 to provide authority for Ms. Scroggins to sign all documents for the Department of Public Works in Mr. Tennyson's absence.

Email from Town of Queensbury Resident Travis Whitehead, advising of communications sent

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to the Offices of the Chairman of the Board and County Attorney regarding the executive session held during the August 3rd meeting of the County Facilities Committee.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 319-358 were mailed; she noted Resolution Nos. 319 and 322 were amended after mailing and a motion was needed to approve the revisions made. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Montesi, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously. She informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 359-363 were prepared after mailing, and a motion was necessary to bring them to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried unanimously.

Chairman Geraghty called for discussion and public comment on the proposed resolutions, as well as requests for roll call votes.

Supervisor Beaty requested roll call votes on proposed Resolution Nos. 339, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Marcy Excavation Services, LLC, the Lowest Responsible Bidder for Runway 30 Tree Removal, Obstruction Lights, Landscape Mitigation and PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator) Installations at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport, Warren County, New York (WC 43-16)*, 340, *Authorizing Agreement with C&S Engineers, Inc. for Part-time Engineering Services During the Construction of the Runway 30 End Obstruction Mitigation and Runway 12-30 Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Installation at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport, Warren County, New York*, and 341, *Resolution Declaring SEQRA Lead Agency Status for the Runway 1-19 Extension at the Warren County (Floyd Bennett Memorial) Airport and Authorizing the Chairman of the Board to Execute the Revised SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form*.

Supervisor Thomas requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 363, *Authorizing an Agreement with Bergmann Associates for Consultant Services for the Post Implementation Review of the Energy Performance Contract at the Warren County Municipal Center*.

Supervisor Merlino advised that proposed Resolution No. 355, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Occupancy Tax Reserve to the Tourism Budget to Provide Remaining Funding to Make Payment of the Initial 2016 Distribution of 2016 Occupancy Tax Collections to Other Municipalities; Amending 2016 Warren County Budget*, concerned occupancy tax funds that were collected in 2015 and not 2016, as the disbursements were always from the prior year. He said there was a Local Law that contained a formula to determine how much of the occupancy tax funds collected that was above and beyond the amount budgeted was allocated to the Occupancy Tax Reserve and how was disbursed to the municipalities. He mentioned this year the amount of occupancy tax collected thus far was less than that of previous years during the same time frame which he felt related to the lack of snow during the winter. He opined the County may fall short of collecting the \$4 million that was collected last year; however, he surmised the collection would be around the same as it was in 2014.

Supervisor Braymer pointed out that proposed Resolution No. 355 should be amended to accurately reflect that the funds distributed were from 2015 Occupancy Tax Collections and not that of 2016.

A motion was made by Supervisor Merlino and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson to amend proposed Resolution No. 355 as outlined above.

Supervisor McDevitt inquired whether there was any value to having an Occupancy Tax Reserve or should all of the funds be used to boost tourism for the County which could result in additional sales tax revenue for the County, as well. Supervisor Merlino opined that the County should reduce the required amount of the Occupancy Tax Reserve to \$500,000 which was what it had been until the Board

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moved forward with a request from the County Treasurer to increase it to \$1 million in 2014. He said if the Board's desire was to reduce the size of the Reserve, an amendment to Resolution No. 558 of 2014 would be required. Supervisor McDevitt remarked he felt they should review the value of having such a large reserve, as he felt it may be more valuable for the County to use all of the funds to drive the economy and boost tourism and sales tax revenue rather than holding it in an account that paid no interest. Supervisor Merlino informed the Tourism & Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee would be reviewing the matter over the next few months. He pointed out there were a number of individuals who were not aware of how occupancy tax funds were used. He said this year \$1,442,094 had been disbursed to the municipalities, the first three installment payments had been made to the Glens Falls Civic Center for this year, with one final payment due for the last quarter for a total of \$250,000; he noted there was one more year left on the agreement to provide funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the Glens Falls Civic Center. He added the County also provided funding for events such as the Americade, etc. and about \$2.5 million was used to fund the Tourism Department. He mentioned an Occupancy Tax Reserve was required in case the amount of occupant tax funds budgeted for the year fell short which could have occurred if the level of occupancy tax collected had remained the same as what was collected during the first two quarters of this year.

Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to amend proposed Resolution No.355 of 2016 as outlined above.

Supervisor Braymer stated she would like to discuss proposed Resolution No. 341, *Resolution Declaring SEQRA Lead Agency Status for the Runway 1-19 Extension at the Warren County (Floyd Bennett Memorial) Airport and Authorizing the Chairman of the Board to Execute the Revised SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form*, which she vehemently opposed. She stated although she appreciated the information Supervisor Strough provided to them today, she had not had a chance to review and analyze it. She continued, while the resolution concerned an environmental review which she was supportive of, as the project sponsor she would like the County to determine not to move forward which was why she would be voting against the resolution. She questioned how they could move forward with the project when the FAA (*Federal Aviation Administration*) had not completed their initial review as of yet. She suggested that the County work with the NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) to determine whether it was permissible for the County to move forward with the Project rather than expending the funds only to be told at a later date they would not permit the County to fill in the wetlands.

Supervisor Seeber reminded the Board that the Queensbury Town Board had adopted a resolution by a vote of four in favor and one opposed requesting that they be appointed Lead Agency for the Project and not the County. She apprised for today's purpose as a representative for the Town of Queensbury and the fact that she was aware of the Town's desire to be appointed the Lead Agency she was opposed to proposed Resolution No. 341 and she questioned whether it was an option for the Town to be appointed as such. Mr. Reichenbach advised that any of the agencies involved in an agency sponsored project could be appointed as the Lead; however, he noted, generally according to the SEQRA workbook that the NYSDEC published, the Lead Agency was the one that sponsored the Project which in this case was the County. He indicated if the Board were to move forward with the proposed Resolution today, the other agencies involved would receive notification via a letter. He continued, should any of the other agencies involved express an interest in being appointed as Lead Agency, there was a process in place to determine who would be appointed such. Supervisor Seeber asked whether this meant the Town of Queensbury would still have an opportunity to become Lead Agency even if the proposed Resolution was adopted today and Mr. Reichenbach responded that if the proposed Resolution was adopted, it was only an indicator of the County's desire to be appointed as Lead Agency subject to the comments of the other agencies involved who had a say in the process.

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Supervisor Braymer interjected that there was no indication contained within the SEQRA documentation that the Town of Queensbury was an involved agency. She said the only other agencies listed were the NYSDEC, The Army Core of Engineers, NYSDOT (*New York State Department of Transportation*) and the FAA.

Supervisor Seeber questioned whether the Town of Queensbury could be added as an involved agency and Mr. Reichenbach replied that he did not believe the Town was an involved agency according to the SEQRA regulations because at this point they did not have any regulatory authority over the Project. Supervisor Seeber asked whether this meant the Town was not involved, nor were they interested, and Mr. Reichenbach responded they were interested but not involved. Supervisor Seeber inquired whether the Town could seek Lead Agency status even though they were not an involved party and Mr. Reichenbach responded that they could seek it, but he was unsure what the outcome would be in the process.

Supervisor Strough commented that Supervisor Seeber did not speak for the majority of the Queensbury Town Board and he noted he concurred with Mr. Reichenbach's explanation. He summarized the following points that were included in the proposed Resolution he distributed today that supported the Airport: The New York Statewide Airport Economic Impact study that was conducted in 2010 stated that the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport generated \$8.3 million in annual economic impact on the region and supported 53 jobs; the Independent Study conducted by R.A Weiderman & Associates in 2015 concluded the Airport created 97 jobs and generated \$10 million in annual economic impact on the region. He said this meant the Airport was contributing \$10 to the regional economy for every \$1 invested in it. He continued, some of the benefits of the runway extension were as follows: met current FAA standards; improve runway and Airport safety; better promote the local businesses in the region; attract jet services which would improve the promotion of tourism; accommodate future and current aircrafts more appropriately during inclement weather; and preparing the Airport for cargo service. In regards to the environmental review, he questioned why they would not want to move forward with something that would address the concerns Supervisor Braymer mentioned. He stated he was confident the County would work with the NYSDEC and the other interested agencies to ensure that all of the environmental disturbances and impacts would be eliminated or mitigated to the point where they were not substantial. He pointed out the FAA would be funding 90% of the project with the NYSDOT providing 5% and the County providing the remaining 5%. He mentioned the cost to each taxpayer in Warren County for the runway expansion was about \$6.12 which was equal to the purchase of a submarine sandwich at Subway Restaurants and would open economic doors for the County, as well as providing a safer Airport for the residents and commuters who used it. In conclusion, he stated for the price of a submarine sandwich residents of Warren and Washington Counties would have a substantially improved Airport which was safer and more viable, would better serve the business jets which was the fastest growing segment of the aviation industry, as well as the segment of the economy that brought forth jobs and capital. He remarked if the goal was to bring good jobs to the region, then a good Airport was required. He pointed out the purpose of the funding provided by the FAA was specifically for airport improvements.

Supervisor Beaty restated that he looked forward to watching the debate between Supervisor Strough and Mr. Westcott on Channel 8 if Supervisor Strough accepted the invitation. He stated that he felt it was necessary to get the facts straight which he outlined as follows: for a cost between \$8-\$10 million, the County would clear cut another 23 acres; destroy the marl fen; and seize a Town of Queensbury resident's land through the eminent domain process. He informed the County had offered that particular resident substantially less than the \$1 million they were seeking for it. He questioned why the County would not pay the \$1 million for the parcel since they had recently expended \$855,000 to purchase 52 acres of land in Washington County for the East/West Runway that was rarely used. He

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said according to a report provided to him by a local resident, the ratio of jets that flew into and out of the Saratoga County Airport as compared to the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport was 4:1, even though they had a shorter runway. He commented that he was a significant supporter of the Airport, as he believed it was an asset to the community; however, he noted, he was not supportive of expending millions of taxpayer dollars so that a handful of jet owners did not have to stop in Canada when they were en-route to Ireland or Greenland because they could not depart from the Airport with a full load of gas. He remarked it was necessary for them to not only consider the Local Share cost of \$400,000 but also future costs which would be significant. In regards to safety, Supervisor Beaty pointed out there had never been an accident relating to runway length at the Airport nor was he aware of any at the Saratoga County Airport where the runway was shorter. He mentioned that due to the opposition they received from the residents, Saratoga County declined funding from the FAA to increase the length of the runway there and yet there were four times as many jets using their Airport than there were in Warren County. He reminded the Board how Phil Morse, who Supervisor Beaty referred to as "the leading businessman in the region", sent a letter to them three years ago which opined that it would be foolish for them to move forward with the expansion, as it would have no bearing on the economy of the region. He commented he believed the Airport served the purpose of the region in its current state, as 737's could fly into and out of the Airport if they so desired. He added he did not want to be known for being wasteful of the taxpayer dollars and requested that the other Board members step up to the plate for once and do the right thing.

Supervisor MacDonald inquired whether the Town of Queensbury would be afforded the opportunity at a later date to seek the Lead Agency status if proposed Resolution No. 341 were to be adopted today and Mr. Reichenbach responded his legal opinion was that the Town did not have standing to become the Lead Agency because at this point they had no regulatory authority over the Project. He added although they had the right to seek Lead Agency, he did not feel they would be successful in obtaining it.

Harrison Freer, *Town of Queensbury resident*, stated he would like to discuss requirements, cost, environment and health with regard to the Airport. He informed there had been an accident on December 8, 2005 at Chicago Midway Airport involving a Southwest Boeing 737 that ran off the end of a 6,500 foot runway resulting in the death of a person in a vehicle. He indicated as a result of this particular accident the FAA increased the size of the landing field buffer from 30% to 40% which essentially increased the requirements from a 5,000 foot runway to 6,000 feet which was why hundreds of airports across the County were expanding their runways to more than 6,000 feet. In reference to cost, Mr. Freer apprised that Supervisor Strough had addressed the initial cost but he made no mention of the incremental costs which equated to about \$5,000 on an annual basis to maintain the additional taxiways, lighting, etc. Moving along to the environment, Mr. Freer advised it had been stated that the marl fen would be destroyed but in fact .9 acres of it would not be disturbed due to the movement of the glide scope equipment to the other side of the runway. He stated there was .08 acres of marl fen that was still in play with regard to the NYSDEC whom the County had been working closely with on this Project. In conclusion Mr. Freer informed there had been some health concerns regarding the burning of leaded fuel if jet traffic were to increase; however, he noted, this was both misleading and incorrect since jet fuel contained no trace of lead in it. He mentioned piston aircrafts were the only types of aircrafts that utilized leaded fuel but the FAA was working with the aviation community to eliminate leaded fuel from aviation gasoline. He remarked that he believed supporting the runway extension was the appropriate course of action for the Board to take.

David Schwenker, *Town of Queensbury resident*, advised he would like to respond to a few comments made by his friend and neighbor, Supervisor Beaty, the first of which concerned safety. He stated although there had been no fatal accidents relating to the runway length yet, the FAA database spoke

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to the fact that runway excursion accidents were far more common and the new regulations Mr. Freer mentioned came about because of those and were applicable to not only 737's but to all of the commercial operations including charters and airlines. Mr. Schwenker informed the FAA was providing the bulk of the funding for the Project because of the reasons listed in their database to extend the runway. He remarked he was frustrated that individuals voiced their pleasure when the County was awarded grant funding for other purposes such as road construction, sewer plants, etc. and yet when the County was awarded grant funding for this Project they voiced their disdain. He indicated the rules were set forth because of the fact that there was positive economic development, performance issues, safe places to land in case there are issues at other airports preventing them from being able to land there. He remarked that he truly believed this was an issue of safety.

Supervisor Seeber advised that she felt it was imperative that she clarify the statement she made earlier regarding what the Town of Queensbury request in regards to Lead Agency. She stated she had been conversing with some members of the Queensbury Town Board during the meeting and they indicated to her that there was a resolution adopted by them with a vote of four in favor and one opposed requesting that an entity other than Warren County be appointed as the Lead Agency. She continued, a copy of the resolution she was referring to had been forwarded to the County and included the possibility of appointing the State as the Lead Agency. She added no reference to the Town of Queensbury being appointed as Lead Agency was made in the Resolution. She remarked in regards to Supervisor Strough's comment that she was not speaking for the majority of the Town of Queensbury, what she was speaking to was the fact that the resolution was adopted by the Queensbury Town Board by a vote of four in favor and one opposed; she added that given the location of the Airport and the involvement of the Town of Queensbury, she felt the County should seriously entertain their request. She apprised that she continued to receive text messages during the meeting from Queensbury Town Board members requesting this change.

Supervisor MacDonald voiced his support of proposed Resolution No. 356, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to Transfers, Debt Service to Cover the Remaining Cost for the SUNY Adirondack Nursing, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (NSTEM) Project Due in 2017; Amending 2016 Warren County Budget*. He reminded the Board that they needed to determine a source of funding to cover the cost of the entire NSTEM Project which he requested they keep in the forefront of their minds as the County headed into the fourth quarter.

Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 319-363 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 355, which was approved with an amendment to indicate the distribution would be of 2015 occupancy tax collections.

During the roll call votes Supervisor Girard apprised he had some questions pertaining to proposed Resolution No. 356, the first of which concerned how much money the County had invested in SUNY Adirondack for their operations thus far and Supervisor Thomas replied that it was just under \$2 million. Supervisor Girard inquired whether anyone was aware of how many County residents attended SUNY Adirondack and Supervisor Strough responded while he did not have the exact figures available he was aware that the majority of the 3,800 individuals enrolled at SUNY Adirondack were Warren County residents. Supervisor Girard remarked the point he was getting at was that while he felt this Project was worthwhile and would benefit the region, from a budgeting perspective after going through a number of years with budget cutbacks, the County was providing about \$6 million in funds to SUNY Adirondack without a revenue source to offset the cost which was why he could not support the proposed Resolution. He pointed out the County was not mandated to provide the funding for the Project to SUNY Adirondack; however, he noted there were other projects that they were required to fund.

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Supervisor Braymer remarked in light of the comments made by Supervisor Girard, she questioned why they would move forward with the Runway Extension at the Airport, as there were many more residents from the County attending SUNY Adirondack as compared to the residents who used to the Airport.

Supervisor Conover referred the Board to the handout that was distributed to them concerning the SUNY Adirondack operating budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 which included the total number of Warren County residents enrolled there.

Supervisor Girard reminded the Board that one of the deciding factors for selling Westmount Health Facility was based upon the fact that only sixty-five residents resided there and that the County should not be involved in the nursing home business. He questioned how many residents were enrolled at SUNY Adirondack had not only been provided with \$2 million in funding for operating costs but also another \$6 million for the NSTEM Project that increased the County Budget by \$400,000 on an annual basis. He asked whether the County should be in the “education business”, noting he was asking the same questions and using the same rational for the cut backs that had been made to the County Budget over the last eight years. He commented he like to think forward and consider items such as this but in the realm of the current state of the County and what had been done he felt they should be pondering whether the County should be involved in the “education business”.

Supervisor MacDonald stated that while he concurred with Supervisor Girard that the Board needed to determine how they were going to fund the NSTEM Project, he felt it was imperative for him to point out that according to a study that was conducted in 2011, SUNY Adirondack had about a \$20 million economic impact on the region which was rather substantial and why felt it was appropriate for the County to invest in them.

Supervisor Dickinson advised he concurred with Supervisor MacDonald and he added that he thought SUNY Adirondack was a tremendous asset to not only the County but the entire region. He stated that it was a benefit for the youth of the region to be offered the opportunity to attend SUNY Adirondack which set their tuition at an affordable rate, as well as affording them the opportunity to pursue their four year degree at other institutions once they completed a two year program there. He informed one of the main reasons he was supportive of SUNY Adirondack related to the fact that it offered the youth of the region the opportunity to remain here and become active members of the community rather than having to move out of the area.

Supervisor Strough remarked in addition to the benefits Supervisors MacDonald and Dickinson spoke of regarding SUNY Adirondack, the NSTEM Building and WORC (*Workforce Readiness Center*) would in fact prepare the local youth for good jobs. He mentioned businesses looking to locate within the region reviewed the skill set of the potential labor market. He said out of the thirty Community Colleges located in New York State, SUNY Adirondack was preparing the County for the future. He advised that SUNY Adirondack was one of the most efficient per student facilities. He stated the College worked hard to keep the cost down while still offering a quality education to students.

Supervisor Beaty informed while he was not known to be a supporter of expending funds, he wholeheartedly supported the NSTEM Project. He stated that the healthcare field was amongst the fastest growing field within the County which was why he believed it was appropriate to support the Project, as well as the fact that is assisted with ensuring the young residents of the County remained here after graduation and could obtain respectable paying jobs. He remarked while he concurred with Supervisor Girard that the cost of the Project was substantial, he felt they could find other areas within the current budget that could be cut back to support what he considered to be such a worthwhile Project.

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Supervisor McDevitt voiced his confidence in Supervisor Thomas being able to locate a funding source for the Project. In terms of the question as to whether the County should be involved in “the education business”, Supervisor McDevitt said he did not feel they had a choice, as there was no alternative.

Supervisor Girard apprised that in light of all the comments made in favor of education, he would ask that they consider the number of budget cuts that the County had made to Cornell Cooperative Extension over the last few years as they commenced the budgeting process. He mentioned one of the goals for Cornell Cooperative Extension was to be able to remain open five days a week instead of four which had commenced to compensate for the budget cuts that had been made. He pointed out Cornell Cooperative Extension provided services to those who required it most within the County and he asked all to be mindful of this during budget time.

Supervisor Thomas reported that the total cost of the SUNY Adirondack NSTEM Project for next year was \$386,000 of which \$92,000 had been set aside. He commented he was confident a funding source for the remaining funds required of \$294,000 would be located; however, he stated his concern relating to how they would fund the Court Expansion Project.

Supervisor Seeber advised that a representative from SUNY Adirondack was present at the meeting today. In reference to Supervisor Girard’s question earlier regarding the number of Warren versus Washington County residents enrolled at SUNY Adirondack, she stated during the Fall Semester of 2015 there were 1,025 residents enrolled from Warren County and 727 Washington County residents.

Teresa LaFay, *Representative of SUNY Adirondack*, informed if the County was not a sponsor County of the College, the amount they would be required to pay for chargebacks would be substantially more than what they were paying now.

Supervisor Thomas voiced his opposition to proposed Resolution No. 363, *Authorizing an Agreement with Bergmann Associates for Consultant Services for the Post Implementation Review of the Energy Performance Contract at the Warren County Municipal Center*, as he believed it should have been awarded to the contractor who submitted a proposal that was about \$9,000 less than what was submitted by Bergmann Associates.

Supervisor McDevitt remarked he was unsure how the County would ever come to a settlement with the matters relating to Siemens, as they had been on-going for a number of years now. He voiced his support of proposed Resolution No. 363, as he believed it would provide the County with an independent party who would assist with determining whether the cost savings was met or not in regards to the Energy Contract for the Municipal Center Building.

Supervisor MacDonald apprised while he was initially supportive of the contract with Bergmann Associates, given the discussion concerning funding and priorities and the fact that a respondent submitted a proposal for less than what Bergmann Associates submitted, he would be voting in opposition of proposed Resolution No. 363.

Chairman Geraghty called for public comment; there being no one wishing to address the Board, he moved to announcements.

Supervisor Simpson invited all to attend the Evening on the Pond event at the Mill Pond in Brant Lake on August 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Girard recognized Ed Bartholomew, *President, Economic Development Corporation*, for his

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efforts in obtaining the \$10 million grant from the State for the City of Glens Falls.

Mr. Vanselow announced that the Annual Blue Grass Festival was scheduled to take place this weekend in North Creek and he invited all to attend.

Chairman Geraghty stated that the Family Festival would be taking place in Shepards Park in Lake George this weekend.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Simpson and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:31 a.m.